



State Board of Equalization

News Release

Betty T. Yee, Member

1st District – San Francisco

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Statement of Betty T. Yee regarding Supreme Court filing in Opposition to Raiding Redevelopment Funds.

Yee Joins Brief Arguing Entire Statutory Scheme is Unconstitutional

Betty T. Yee, First District Member of the Board of Equalization, has joined an amicus or “friend of the court” brief filed with the California Supreme Court addressing the challenge to state law eliminating Redevelopment Agencies (RDAs) and shifting redevelopment funds away from RDAs’ economic development mission. The amicus brief is also submitted by the Community Redevelopment Agency of Los Angeles and the Southern California Association of Non-Profit Housing.

The brief explains the unified statutory scheme that violates constitutional limitations against further raids on local redevelopment funds, which were enacted by voters statewide last year in Proposition 22.

Ms. Yee made the following statement:

“Redevelopment is an important tool to revitalize local communities, stimulate economic growth, and generate tax revenues to pay for public services. Moreover, redevelopment has proven to be a more successful job-creation and economic development initiative in relation to other policy options, such as tax breaks or other enticements to businesses to invest in local communities.

“Last year, I supported Proposition 22, which sought to curtail state raids on local redevelopment dollars to ensure stable funding for these local economic development initiatives. This stability also promotes greater transparency and truth in budgeting to ensure taxpayer funds are used appropriately. This year’s redevelopment actions undermine these important goals.”

Board Member Betty T. Yee was elected to her post in November 2006. Her district includes many of California's coastal counties, from Del Norte to Santa Barbara, and includes the entire San Francisco Bay Area. Ms. Yee previously served as Chief Deputy Director for Budget at the California Department of Finance, covering a wide array of state and local finance policy matters.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects more than \$48 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit www.taxes.ca.gov.

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